

Windows taskbar: Start, data (D:), I am getting the blue sc..., Untitled - Notepad, astronomy stuff - blake..., RASC Toronto Centre..., SkyTools 3 Professional Edition, Interactive Atlas, 21:40

SkyTools 3 Professional Edition

Evening of 2011 Nov 26 EDT Carr Astronomical Observatory Celestron C14 Blake Nancarrow

Context Viewer: TeleVue 101 Blake Nancarrow

Interactive Atlas: 2011 Nov 27 00:46 EDT Carr Astronomical Observatory

44 objects out of 113 meet visibility criteria

Primary ID	Alternate...	Con	RA (Ap)	Dec (Ap)	Mag	Size	Distance	Begin	Optimum	End	D...	Be...
Little Dumbbell	M 76	Per	01h43m08.3s	+51°38'23"	10.1	2.7'	2400 ly	19:09	22:42	05:08	easy	easy
M 34	NGC 1039	Per	02h42m54.2s	+42°48'55"	5.8	35.0'	1600 ly	19:11	23:42	05:30	easy	obvious
M 77	NGC 1068	Cet	02h43m19.6s	+00°02'19"	9.7	6.6'x 5.8'	70.0 Mly	20:39	23:42	02:43	easy	easy
Pleiades	M 45	Tau	03h47m45.2s	+24°09'16"	1.5	120.0'	490 ly	20:04	00:46	05:28	obvious	obvious
M 79	NGC 1904	Lep	05h24m42.7s	-24°30'50"	7.7	9.6'	49000 ly	23:24	02:23	05:21	easy	easy
M 38	NGC 1912	Aur	05h29m30.9s	+35°51'24"	6.8	20.0'	3500 ly	21:04	02:27	07:07	easy	obvious
Great Orion Nebula	M 42	Ori	05h35m55.3s	-05°22'33"	4.0	40.0'x 20.0'		00:05	02:34	05:03	obvious	obvious
M 36	NGC 1960	Aur	05h37m08.2s	+34°08'46"	6.5	10.0'	4300 ly	21:18	02:35	07:12	obvious	obvious
M 37	NGC 2099	Aur	05h53m07.5s	+32°33'16"	6.2	14.0'	4500 ly	21:39	02:51	07:09	obvious	obvious
M 35	NGC 2168	Gem	06h09m46.3s	+24°20'47"								
M 41	NGC 2287	CMa	06h46m33.7s	-20°46'09"								
M 50	NGC 2323	Mon	07h03m18.3s	-08°24'04"								
M 47	NGC 2422	Pup	07h37m09.7s	-14°30'36"								
M 46	NGC 2437	Pup	07h42m20.6s	-14°50'17"								

Object Information: Pleiades
 R.A.: 03h47m00.0s Dec.: +24°07'00"(2000)
 Galactic lon: +166°34' Galactic lat: -23°31' in Taurus

Also known as: M 45, Collinder 42, Melotte 22, OCL 421
 Magnitude: 1.50
 Size: 120.0'

Comments: Catalog Data
 Radial Velocity: 7 km/sec
 Distance: 490 ly
 Age: 135 Myrs
 Color Excess E(B-V): 0.040
 Metallicity index: 0.11

Images | Links | Observing Lists | Visual Difficulty | Chart Numbers
 Visual Synopsis | Notes | NightBar | YearBar | Apparent Data

Apparent RA: 03h47m45.2s Local Sidereal Time: 03h46m
 Apparent Dec: +24°09'16" Hour Angle: 00h01m
 Eccliptical lon: +59°53' Airmass: 1.1
 Eccliptical lat: +04°05' Mean extincted magnitude: 1.8
 Azimuth: +179°54'
 Apparent Altitude: +69°40'
 Altitude above visible horizon: +70°25'
 Zenith Distance: +20°20'

As of 2011 Nov 27 00:46 EDT
 For Carr Astronomical Observatory
 Celestron C14

SkyTools 3 astronomical software

demo
 Blake Nancarrow
 Starfest
 10 Aug 2013

1969

- Blake grew up in the Space Race
- that night at the cottage ('88)...
- SP-C8 from Efstonscience ('90)
- wavered for a time
- joined RASC TC ('07)
- finished Messier list ('13)



a target

- Blake started using...
 - Messier list
 - RASC Finest NGC
 - AL observing lists
 - monthly magazines
 - double stars for small telescopes
 - Turn Left at Orion
 - Herschel 400 part 1, 2?



why?

- checklists, targets, goals, an objective...
- certifications
- unseen objects
- best times to view
- consolidate
- high accuracy
- lower magnitudes
- speed planning
- “current” objects, e.g. comets
- track things already seen



SkyTools 3 software demonstration

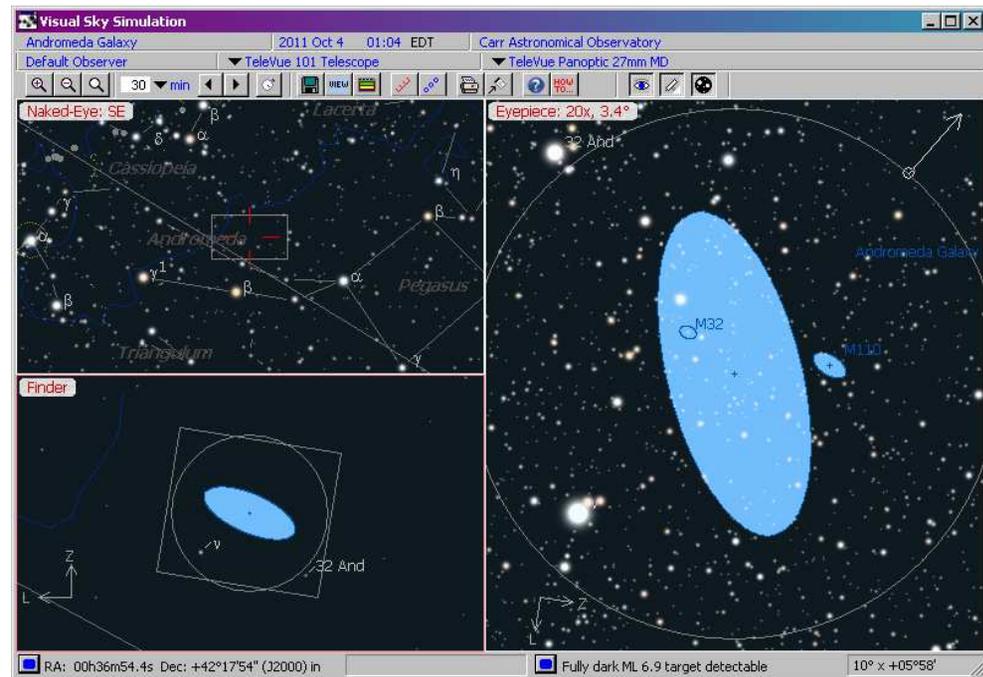
planners / loggers

product	demo	Windows	Macintosh
Calsky (web site)	n/a (free)	✓	✓
AstroPlanner	✓	✓	✓
Deep-Sky Planner	✓	✓	
Deep Sky	✓	✓	
SkyTools	✓	✓	



SkyTools 3 is different

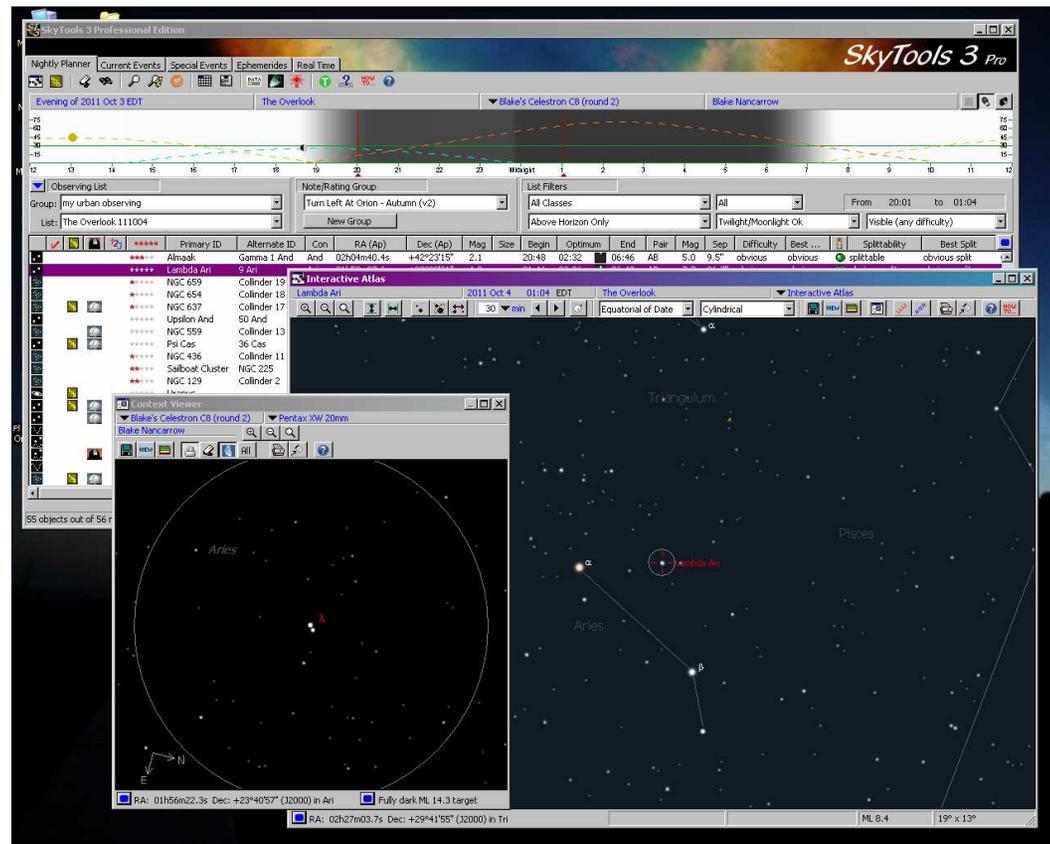
- accelerated star hopping
- list oriented
- planning component
- powerful searching
- filtering
- logging
- accurate
- current
- predicts quality
- exposure calculations (pro)
- yes, it does charts!
- it's a database



SkyTools 3 software demonstration

demo time

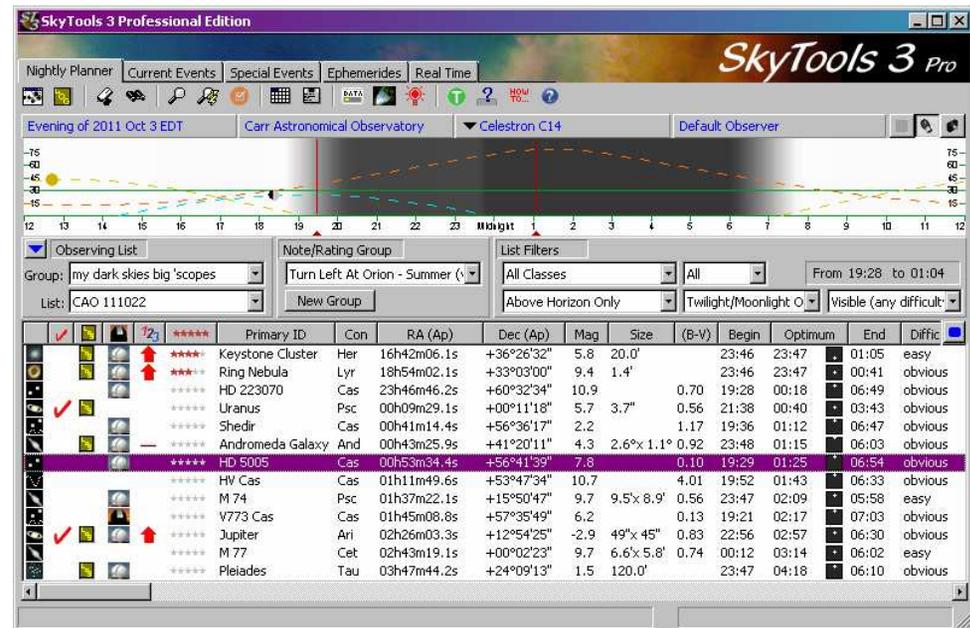
- observing list features
- the Night Bar
- Object Information
- making a list
- powerful searching
- the Generator
- Interactive Chart
- Context Viewer
- “hopping” chart
- printing
- shared lists
- logging



SkyTools 3 software demonstration

1000+ days later

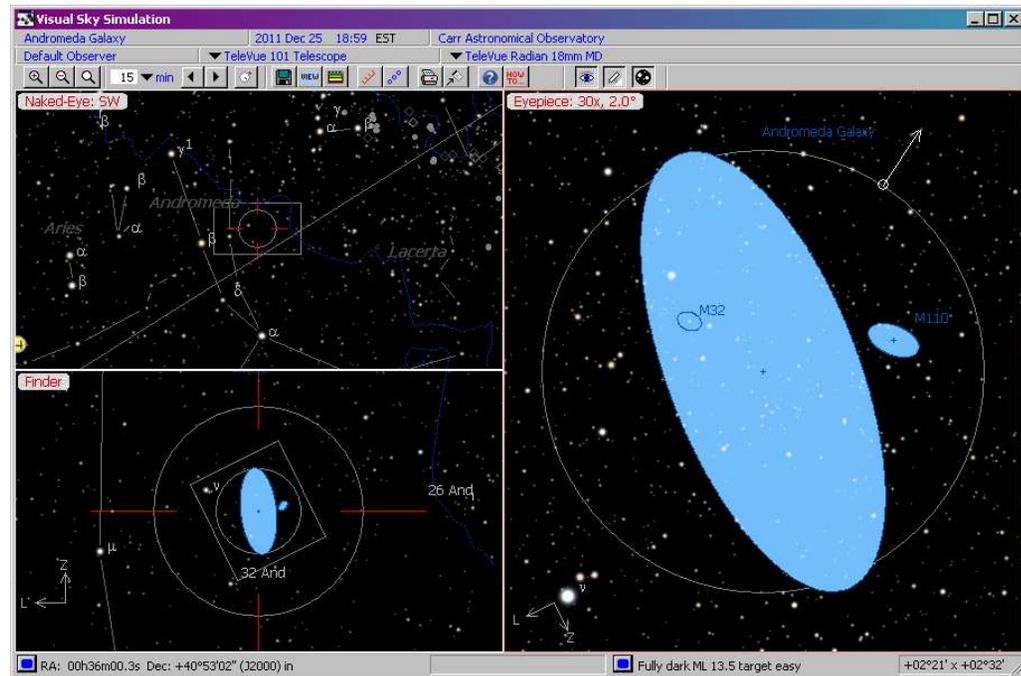
- Blake doesn't leave home...
- observing lists for
 - personal targets
 - club observing sessions
 - star parties
 - outreach events
 - imaging runs (Pro ed.)
 - simply: what's up?!
- log viewed objects
- configured for various computer driven mounts
- still learning stuff!



SkyTools 3 software demonstration

pros

- love lists
- permanent logging
- automatic generation tool
- currency
- accuracy
- double star data
- everything in one spot
- less paper
- shared lists
- observing more



SkyTools 3 software demonstration

cons

- not cheap?
- intimidating
- large tome...
- different user interface
- Windows only (WineBottler?)
- buy a new monitor?!



editions

- **Starter**
 - planning, searching, list creation
 - telescope 3-panel chart
- **Standard**
 - + list sharing, rich filtering
 - Interactive Atlas, Context Viewer
 - events, month & day calendars
 - observing status, permanent logging
- **Professional**
 - + telescope control
 - imaging planning, calculations
 - expanded database, 522 million stars
 - enhanced searching



how much?

- **direct from Skyhound**
 - Standard USD \$100
 - Professional \$180
 - shipping \$12
- **Starter Edition**
 - great price USD \$40
 - available on trial!
- **group buy**
 - for astronomy clubs
 - 2 to 9 is 25%
 - +25 people 50% off!



learnin'

- slightly steeper learning curve
- long learning curve
- coverage
 - on-board tutorials
 - on-board help screens
 - how-to guides
 - extensive manual
 - Yahoo!Group
 - video tutorials on web



SkyTools is cool

- thanks
- questions?
- SO...

The screenshot displays the SkyTools 3 software interface for Jupiter. The main window shows a 3D rendering of Jupiter with its characteristic bands and the Great Red Spot. The interface includes several panels:

- Object Information:** Jupiter, Prime Solar System Object, Planet. R.A.: 02h09m10.1s, Dec.: +11°28'51"(2000). Galactic lon: +151°31', Galactic lat: -47°02'. In Aries. Magnitude: -2.92. Size: 49"x 46".
- Current Data (planet):** Earth Distance: 4.0 AU, Sun Distance: 5.0 AU, Phase: 1.00, Phase Angle: 1.8°, Position Angle of axis: 339.1°, Central Longitude: 205.8°, Central Latitude: 3.3°, Subsolar Longitude: 224.0°, Subsolar Latitude: 3.1°, Diameter: 142984.0 km, GRS Angle: 36.8°.
- Satellites:** A table listing Jupiter's moons: Io, Europa, Ganymede, Callisto, Amalthea, and Himalia, with their respective magnitudes, position angles, and separations.
- Visual Synopsis:** A chart showing the visual magnitude of Jupiter over the course of the year 2011. The y-axis represents magnitude (15 to 75), and the x-axis represents months (Jan to Dec). The chart shows a peak in magnitude (faintest) in October and a minimum in magnitude (brightest) in April.

At the bottom of the interface, the current coordinates are shown: RA: 02h09m10.9s, Dec: +11°29'32" (J2000) in Ari. The software version is ML 20.0, and the current view is 02°00" x 01'25".

SkyTools 3 software demonstration